

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES
2010
CLAYTON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD**

DIRECTOR

TIM ENGELHARDT

BOARD MEMBERS

JIM LANGHUS – CHAIRPERSON, MONONA

JOE IHM - VICE-CHAIRPERSON, GUTTENBERG

DEANNA KRAMBEER– SECRETARY, ST OLAF

LIZ JASTER- VOLGA

LARRY STONE – ELKADER

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Executive Summary

The Mission of the Clayton County Conservation Board is to promote the health and general welfare of the people, and to encourage preservation, conservation, education and recreation through responsible use and appreciation of our natural resources and cultural heritage.

This document is a condensed summary of the projects and events the Clayton County Conservation Board has been involved with in the year 2010. The document also contains a summary of meeting minutes and statistics acquired by the Clayton County Conservation Board staff. The purpose of this document is to give the reader a summary of the events and proceedings within this department for the calendar year 2010.

The Clayton County Conservation Board adopted a Five-Year Strategic Plan in 1999. The Plan outlines the Board's values and goals and gives direction to the department as to the development of each of the specific properties entrusted to them. The Strategic Plan is reviewed and updated annually.

In 2010 the board reviewed and updated the Parks and Facilities portion of the plan to better reflect the progress and development of the Iowa Great Places Turkey River Recreational Corridor. The Turkey River Water is a cooperative effort between the Fayette and Clayton County Conservation Board and the RC&D. The water trail is a part of the TRRC and made progress this past year. The water trail map has been developed and will be ready for spring use. Way-finding and directional signs were ordered and delivered and will be installed during the spring and summer of 2011. Additionally, several kiosks have been developed and they are being finalized and will soon be ordered to be installed in 2011. The Grand Opening of the longest designated Iowa Water Trail will take place the week of July 10, 2011.

Progress was made on the land portion of the TRRC. Fayette County received several grants and private donations for the trail section between Clermont and Elgin. The trail bed work was completed in 2010 and in 2011 the section will be paved. Clayton County applied for a Statewide Enhancement Grant for 4.1 miles of trail connecting Pony Hollow Trail and Motor Mill. That grant is still pending.

Related to the TRRC is the five county regional trail plan which includes the TRRC. The plan is to connect Clermont to Guttenberg using the TRRC. In Guttenberg the trail route heads north to Minnesota using the Mississippi River Trail (MRT) to the Root River Trail. From Clermont the proposed trail plan will connect with Calmer then to Cresco and head north to the Star Trail in Minnesota. The plan will require a cooperative effort between all five counties and a plan of which grants to apply for so we are not competing with each other for grant funds.

The Motor Mill Site plays an important role in the TRRC and the Regional Trail Plan, specifically the Motor Mill Bridge. In 2010, the FEMA Project Worksheet was approved and late in the year funds were obligated to build a replica bridge across the Turkey River. The process has been started with a Request for Proposals being sent out to engineering firms.

Other projects at Motor Mill that occurred this year is the campground was reopened after the 2008 flood. The well project has been completed and we now have running water for the campground. The flooring project was finished and mill stone floor project is near completion. There are still a few windows that need to be replaced in the mill. Work on the windows was stalled due to the time needed on the flooring projects.

At Osborne Park, cabin complex plan was completed and approved. The Board applied for a REAP grant to construct four cabins near the archery range. We were not successful in the grant, but were encouraged by the results.

In the spring of 2010, a youth/mentor spring turkey hunt took place. Several law enforcement officers took their time off to spend time with several youth to mentor a hunt. They used Osborne Park and several neighboring land owners. They were not able to harvest a turkey, however, they had a lot of fun and it was a great experience for all who participated.

The Environmental Education program continues to expand with new programs and by expanding established programs. The OWLS educational series greatly expanded this year with record number of participants that look forward to the monthly programs. As a result of these efforts the Clayton County Conservation Board Educational Programs received the Outstanding Conservation Board Environmental Education Award

The use of the Clayton County Conservation Board website continues to expand as well. In 2010 we began to work with our webmaster to update the site and give it new look. That project continues and should be ready to go live in the spring.

In 2010 the Conservation Board was approached by two separate individuals about making a sizable donation. One is a farm site which offers a tremendous Iowa farming history story and land development story. The second potential donation could include a small piece of property near Pony Hollow Trail and the potential for developing an endowment fund for the educational programs at Osborne Park. We are continuing to work with both donors and distribution of their gifts.

Staffing

STAFF MEMBERS-Permanent Full-Time

TIM ENGELHARDT – Director

MARTY MULFORD – Operations Supervisor

HARRY LUSTER – Office/Welcome Center Coordinator

TUCKER ANDERSON- Park Ranger/Special Projects

BRIAN GIBBS- Naturalist I

ABBEY HARKRADER- Naturalist II

STAFF MEMBERS – Permanent Part-Time

WALTER REICHSTADTER – Maintenance Tech.

JOYCE SCHOULTE– Secretary/Receptionist

PAUL & CATHY MARCOTTE – Exhibit Security

SEASONAL EMPLOYEES

OFFICE STAFF – 1 Individual

SUMMER MAINTENANCE – 5 Individuals

SUMMER NATURALISTS – 2 Individuals

VOLUNTEERS

150 + volunteers help with the naturalist programs, flower gardens, Heritage Days, fishing clinic, hunter education, public programming, Motor Mill Foundation and Welcome Center staffing on weekends and some weekdays. Schools and youth groups also assist with various projects.

Visitor Numbers for 2010

It is difficult to obtain the exact number of visitors to Osborne Park because of the layout of the park. Numbers are obtained with a traffic counter located at the front gate of the park and numbers are obtained through signatures of visitors who sign the Iowa Visitor Registration Book in the Iowa Welcome Center. The purpose and main focus of the numbers is to show trends from year to year.

Traffic Counter (April-November):	35,060
December-March	2,000
Heritage Days:	13,000
Field Trips:	2,000
Pond/archery range, buses	2,000
Total	89,120

Iowa Visitor Registration for 2010: 8,452, representing 79 Iowa Counties, 40 states and 15 countries

2009: 7,871
 2008: 7,234
 2007: 7,441
 2006: 9,330

Traffic Counter

2009:	77,964
2008	33,400
2007	41,043
2006	65,334
2005	77,737
2004	44,281 (hole in counter hose)
2003	73,114
2002	68,256
2001	68,182
2000	88,364
1999	76,786
1998	89,161
1997	88,586
1996	95,823

Website Unique Visitor Numbers

CCCB

Motor Mill

2006	2,335	507
2007	7,394	1,202
2008	No Data	1,658
2009	20,777	1,568
2010	28,816	1,449

Projects and Events

The staff and board continue to strive to offer the public a wide variety of programs and facilities each year. The following is a list of the major projects that were completed in 2010 as well as a list of programs and events in which CCCB staff were involved with.

PROJECTS

Clayton County Safety Committee
Turkey River Trail Corridor
Turkey River Water Trail Development
Water System at Motor Mill Completed
Conducted several Prescribed Burns
Mill Stone Floor Restoration at Motor Mill
Roofed Pioneer Village General Store
Replaced the coyote and Raccoon in Wildlife Exhibit
Conservation Easement/City of Guttenberg
Osborne Pond stocked with Bass, Catfish and Bluegill
Replaced Crew Cab Pickup
Purchased 25 pairs of Snowshoes for EE Programming
Completed Osborne Cabin Complex Design Study
Eno Property/Management Plan Development
Joy Springs Flood Damage Repair
Motor Mill Bridge/Mill Funding from FEMA
Tree ID Markers on Pony Hollow Trail/Eagle Scout Project
Nehls/Blair Donation
Purchased New Mower
Motor Mill Trail Preliminary Planning
Osborne Water System Issues
Clayton Ridge Outdoor Classroom Development
Updating Clayton County Conservation Website
Bloody Run TSI
Garlic Mustard Control
Continued with FEMA 2008 Projects

EVENTS

Hunter Education (2)
Bald Eagle Winter Survey
Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring
Frog and Toad Survey
Mississippi River Festival
Assisted Bremer County Field Day
Off Road Fun Run/Walk
Heritage Days
Hawk Watch
Holiday Walk
Hosted Volunteer Lunch
4-H Shooting Sports (6)
Monthly Public Program
O.W.L.S Education Series
Archery Shoot (2)
Motor Mill Open for Tours
Trees for Kids
Mississippi Adventure Day
EWALU Field Day
Stewards of the Beautiful Land
Passport to Fitness
Christmas Bird Count
Breeding Bird Survey
Big Springs Science Field Day
Fishing Clinic
Youth/Mentor Turkey Hunt

Hunter Registration 2010

The Clayton County Conservation Board offers bow-hunting opportunities for deer and turkey from a non-permanent tree stand only at Buck Creek Park and the South Side of Motor Mill. In the fall of 2001 the board adopted a registration form to be filled out by hunters before they hunt the start of each season. This is an effort to acquire statistics at each park with regards to hunting.

Buck Creek Park- Had 13 hunters register. 2 Allamakee County, 4 Black Hawk County, 1 Bremer County, 3 Clayton County, 1 Dubuque County, 1 Grundy County, 1 Johnson County,

South Side Motor Mill Park- Had 12 hunters register. 3 Allamakee County, 1 Black Hawk County, 5 Clayton County, 2 Dubuque County, 1 Johnson County,

Camping Numbers

	# of Users	# of Nights	Fees
<u>Bloody Run Park</u>			
2004	1314	727	\$5,352.00
2005	1316	778	\$5,454.00
2006	1274	692	\$4,963.30
2007	1005	591	\$4,301.90
2008	1131	736	\$5,186.05
2009	1220.5	800	\$5,814.25
2010	1333	933	\$6,620.85

Osborne Park

2004	87	32	\$ 228.00
2005	508	244	\$1,736.00
2006	404	213	\$1,498.00
2007	503	247	\$1,736.00
2008	8	2	\$ 14.00
2009	CLOSED		
2010	CLOSED		

Motor Mill Park

2004	44	11	\$ 77.00
2005	170	74	\$ 552.00
2006	305	117	\$ 955.65
2007	194	76	\$ 607.00
2008	47	15	\$ 105.00
2009	51	23	\$ 168.00
2010	231	87	\$ 859.00

Joy Springs Park

2004	130	50	\$ 383.00
2005	126	55	\$ 384.00
2006	144	57	\$ 396.00
2007	211	52	\$ 419.95
2008	205	79	\$ 553.00
2009	162	54	\$ 441.00
2010	149	63	\$ 462.00

Totals

2004	1575	820	\$ 6,040.00
2005	2120	1151	\$ 8,126.00
2006	2127	1079	\$ 7,812.95
2007	1913	966	\$ 7,064.85
2008	1391	832	\$ 5,858.05
2009	1433.5	877	\$ 6,423.25
2010	1713	1083	\$ 7,941.85

Naturalist Report 2010

	<u># of Presentations</u>	<u># of Student Contacts</u>	<u># of teacher/Leaders</u>
<i>Classroom Programs</i>			
January-December	448	8614**	451
<i>Field Trips</i>			
Jan-June (25)	200	1,160	165
September-November (13)	72	407	68
FT Totals	272	1567	233
37 Total Visits			
Summer 2010- Totals 21 Programs (June-August)	173	866	120
Public Programs 69 Programs	116	2314	
Heritage Days Holiday Walk	5	13,000 74	
Scout/4H groups	12	164	26
Motor Mill Open 10 weekends		788	
Hunter Education	2	92	20
Grand Totals	1028	27,479	850

Classroom Visits by Naturalists

<u>School</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u># Presentations</u>	<u># Students</u>	<u>Upper Class</u>
Central	PS-6	51	277	18
Ed-Co	JK-6	69	258	
Garnavillo	5-8 th	24	175	
Guttenberg	HS-4	34	235	
MFL/Mar-Mac	HS-8	114	606	
Postville	HS-8	61	421	
Starmont	HS-4	31	238	54
St. Mary's	K-8	25	97	
Valley	K-5	33	186	
TOTALS		442	2,493**	

**These numbers differ because nearly all students and teachers saw more than one program.
For numbers on top section, each person is counted more than once.

2010 Public Program Numbers

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u># Attended</u>
January 28	Woodcarving	8
January 28	Owl Prowl	2
February 13	Skiing	47
March 5	BB Box	23
March 6	Woodcarving	5
March 19	O.W.L.S. – big spring	15
April 22-	Nature Tykes Hyke	12 (rain b/f and after
April 19-	O.W.L.S. –Backbone CCC	9
April 24-	Beginner Woodcarving	2
May 1-	Wildflower Walk	8
May 1-	Painting Woodcarvings	4
May 6	VIP Wildflower Walk	10
May 7	Moon Meteorites, and More	14
May 20-	O.W.L.S. –Pioneer Cemeteries	26
May 28-	Frogs Sing Songs (Cynthia)	13
June 4-	Bus Tour	52
June 12-	Garlic Mustard Pull	4
June 12-	Woodcarvers	6
June 17-	O.W.L.S. –Bees	5
July	Stewards-Grau Savanna	12
July	Stewards-Osborne	10
July 2-	Night Hike	5
July 15-	O.W.L.S. –Algific slopes and Ice Caves	13
August 4-	Robert Grau Savanna – Grau family tour	2
August 7-	Motor mill Canoe Float and Tour	19 +
August 12-	Motor mill Canoe Float –Silos Camp	12 +
August 13	Stargazing Party for Perseid Meteors	11 (cloudy so indoors)
August 14-	Motor Mill- Robert Grau Savanna Walk	2
August 19	O.W.L.S. –Clayton County Parks and Lore	19
August 20-	Stream Stomp	4
September 16	OWLS – Lock 10	22
October 15	OWLS – White Pine Hollow	22
October 26	Guttenberg Care Ctr tour at Motor Mill	15
November 14	Holiday Wreath	7
November 16	OWLS – Effigy Mounds NM	8
December 10	Natural Ornaments	1
<hr/>		
	36	471

Outreach (offsites)

January 28	Gutt Care Center – Scaly and Slimy	20	Brian
February 25	Gutt Care Center – Eagles and Osprey	17	Brian
February 25	Scenic Acres – Wildflowers	7	
March 19	Gutt Care Center – stars	10	
April 29	Gutt Care Center – Wildflowers	22	
May 13	Strawberry Point Care Center – Owls	21	
May 27	Gutt Care Center – Frogs	15	Cynthia
June 24	Gutt Care Center – “It started w/ a Hat”	22	
July 30	Gutt Care Center – “Nature at Night”	20	estimate
August 26	Gutt Care Center – “Monarchs”	15	
September 30	Gutt Care Center – “Motor Mill”	21	
September 30	Good Samaritan Care Center – “Motor Mill”	13	
October 20	St. Paul’s women grp, Monona–IA Conservationists	18	
October 28	Guttenberg Care Center program –Are you Scared?-	23	
November 6	IAN fundraiser Jackson Co–1940 Blizzard	50	
November 22	Guttenberg Care Center pgm –Turkeys-	16	
December 16	Good Samaritan Center pgm –Blizzard 1940-	13	
December 30	Guttenberg Care Center pgm –Blizzard 1940-	24	
	18	347	

(Note: Scouts, libraries and daycares have been moved causing a significant drop)

VOLUNTEER HOURS 2010

<u>Area of Service</u>	<u>Hours Served</u>
Iowa Room	246
Garden	520
Field Trips	43
Heritage Days	450
Public Programs	120
Off Road Run/Fishing Clinic/Holiday Walk	156
Youth Mentor Turkey Hunt	50
Hunter Education	304
Motor Mill Foundation	1093
Conservation Board Members	<u>180</u>
	3,162

GRANTS 2010

Date	Sponsor	Funded	Unfunded	Project
January	Home Depot		\$ 2,500	Motor Mill Tools and materials
January	Alliant Energy		\$ 2,500	Motor Mill Education
January	Silos and Smokes		\$ 2,520	Motor Mill Intern Grant
January	Clayton CFF	\$ 1,000		Mill Stone Floor
February	Alpine	\$ 1,000		Mill Stone Floor
March	Regional Enhance	\$320,000		Turkey River Corridor Trail
March	FEMA	\$432,427		Motor Mill Bridge
March	FEMA	\$ 6,539.65		Motor Mill Basement
March	FSA	\$ 327		DCP-ACRE Payment to schools
March	FEMA	\$ 50,000		White House/Bridge Mitigation
August	REAP		\$358,374	Osborne Cabin Complex
October	Statewide Enhance	\$605,576	Pending	Motor Mill Trail
December	Alpine	\$ 500	\$ 500	Bird Binoculars
Total		\$1,417,369.65	\$366,394	

JANUARY

The proposed budget for 2011 was reviewed again with anticipated changes itemized. The total 2011 budget is approximately \$3400 more than the 2010 budget.

Board officers for 2010 are Jim Langhus, Chair; Joe Ihm, Vice Chair; Deanna Krambeer, Secretary.

Annual reports were distributed and reviewed. The 2009 Summary of Activities of the Clayton County Conservation Board was reviewed. The 2009 Summary of Activities of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was reviewed briefly.

Tim Engelhardt presented a written and verbal report on the Turkey River Corridor. He is trying to schedule a County Trail Committee Meeting to look at an entire trail system in the county. This includes the proposed trail on the Great River Road which will be altered when work is done on the highway. Engelhardt and the county engineer have started discussions regarding the bike trail along the Great River Road.

The Parks and Facilities portion of the 5-year Plan was reviewed. A number of updates and additions related to the Turkey River Land and Water Trail project were made.

John Nikolai, Chair of the Motor Mill Foundation joined the meeting to review the Motor Mill long-term plan. Tim Engelhardt distributed copies of the MMF 2007 Visioning Plan and reviewed it with the Board.

Staff evaluations were all completed during the month of December.

Jim Langhus and Tim Engelhardt met on December 23, 2009 and reviewed the Board members' evaluations of the Executive Director. The evaluation of the Director's performance was very positive.

A bluffland protection and zoning meeting has been set for Tuesday, January 26 at 7:00PM at the Osborne Center. Gary Taylor of ISU Extension will be presenting.

The Annual Animal Permit reports have been completed and submitted to the Iowa DNR and the USFWS.

Engelhardt worked with other county departments and the BOS to establish a county office buildings closing for bad weather. A reasonable policy has now been established and approved.

The naturalists have been involved in Winter Bird Surveys and the Bald Eagle Winter Survey.

The cross country ski trails have been set twice so far this year. The Pond Area has had sledders using the hill and shelter house. Area is checked and cleaned regularly.

The fire alarm went off on Sunday January 3 at 8:15 PM, 1:15 AM and 2:30 AM. The alarm company came on Wednesday January 6 and serviced the smoke alarms.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$22,277.46
	Conservation Reserve:	\$ 85.00
	Total:	\$22,362.46

FEBRUARY

The Board of Supervisors has directed all county departments to freeze salaries and departmental expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011; the only increases allowed would be health insurance and the county's share of IPERS increases. Therefore the budget approved last month must be amended.

The updates discussed at last meeting have been added to the 5-year-plan. Gary Siegwarth, Iowa DNR at Big Springs, asked if the CCCB would consider a management agreement of the camping area at Big Springs.

Thirty eight people attended the presentation by Gary Taylor on bluffland protection and zoning. A second meeting with more information will be March 11 at 7 PM at Central State Bank at Elkader.

Engelhardt gave an update on the Turkey River Recreational Project. Options for the land trail are being explored at multiple levels.

Engelhardt submitted a grant application for \$1,000 to the Clayton County Foundation for the Future and the MMF has applied for a \$1,000 grant from Alpine, both to be used for the millstone floor at Motor Mill.

Pepsi has an on-line grant program. Engelhardt is working on a grant submission for the Turkey River Recreational Trail Project for \$250,000 for engineering on the trail.

RC& D is working with the City of Volga, private land owners and a private campground to develop a horse trail from Volga to the Volga Lake Recreational Area. If grants are applied for, there may be a need for a governmental entity to sponsor the project and the group asked if the CCCB would be that entity.

A FLIP video recorder has been purchased to use for programs and to add video to the website.

The 12 year old white tail doe has been replaced with a 3 year old doe.

Engelhardt talked with Craig Ritland about the campground project; much of the report is completed, just waiting for an engineer report yet.

IA DOT is looking for a wetland mitigation project. Engelhardt suggested the rehab work on the Elkader Wetlands as a possible project; they seemed interested.

FEMA Project Worksheets have been written for the Motor Mill Projects for the bridge and silt in the basement. We should have them by the end of February.

Engelhardt met with McGregor, Marquette, County Reps and Pikes Peak State Park to discuss the Great River Road Trail proposal from the park to the city limits along the Great River Road.

Clayton and Fayette County Conservation Boards will host Stewards of the Beautiful Land sponsored by Trees Forever this summer. Two sessions will be held in Clayton County in June and August.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$ 6,236.59
	Conservation Reserve:	\$ 4,015.00
	Total:	\$10,251.59

MARCH

Engelhardt reviewed specifications and bidding forms for the second phase of the Motor Mill well project and the letter to the DNR about possible changes needed in the permit.

After receiving one bid for the archeological evaluation of the Osborne Campground, FEMA and SHIPO decided that the survey should include the campground and road. They request 3 bids be obtained. The surveys must be paid for by the CCCB. After discussion, the Director was authorized to use his discretion on how to move forward. Engelhardt will talk to FEMA about implications of the project withdrawal.

Engelhardt gave an update on the Turkey River Recreational Corridor Project. The MOU was signed by the two counties, three cities and the state along with a 28E agreement. The FEMA Project Worksheets for Motor Mill will be signed: one for silt removal and tuck pointing and a second for the bridge that includes pier work, design of the bridge and construction of the north span. These projects will be included in the TRRC Project work plans. Engelhardt shared information on the proposed trail through Clayton County.

Suggestions were made about where to tour during our summer meetings: the Lock & Dam in Guttenberg in June, the proposed trail along the Turkey River and Frieden Park in July, and the Kleve fen in August.

FSA has a program that will pay DCP and ACRE payments on property owned by the state or local governmental entities to support public schools. The CCCB is qualified to receive \$327 paid out on a lottery basis. The plan is to pay a set amount to county schools to help offset field trip costs.

Seasonal job positions have been posted. The deadline is March 8, but may be extended if necessary.

Gibbs was able to help with the PDC Eagle Watch on Feb 27. Naturalists have worked with scout groups, school field trips and care center programs. Gibbs attended NE Iowa Naturalist meeting in February. Abbey and Brian plan to attend the IAN Spring Conference.

The Marquette VFW will be donating 5 fire rings at Bloody Run Park and would like to continue to work on future improvements such as more trees, a latrine, playground equipment or other long range plans and ideas.

Engelhardt has accepted a position with the City of Elkader as a reserve police officer.

Engelhardt inspected the Elkader Wetlands with the DNR. It was decided to begin removing “weed” trees in spots to create openings.

The vet was called for a sick bobcat. He is now on the mend.

Public programs have been well attended. Skiing workshop had 47 participants. Naturalists worked with a Cub Scout Fun Day and had 75 participants. Two care center programs were presented in February.

Staff has gone through and estimated the budget for the rest of the year.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$19,675.03
	Conservation Reserve:	\$ 2,000.00
	Total:	\$21,675.03

APRIL

A brief discussion about the current budget was held. The board authorized the purchase of an air conditioning unit in the lower level of the Nature Center from Central Plumbing and Heating. The Director was authorized to purchase a used pick-up to replace the crew cab if a suitable one is found. Three bids were received for the Motor Mill Well House/Phase II proposal. The bid from Brown's Pump Service and Excavation with the change order for footing, the additional service installation from Allamakee Clayton Electric Cooperative and Brown's trenching service installation bid was accepted.

A Youth-Mentor Turkey Hunt was held the weekend of April 9–12, with two youth/mentors in Osborne Park. Staff should let the public know of the hunt and post the area for the safety of others using the park.

Gary Siegwarth has approached Tim Engelhardt about the possibility of the CCCB collecting fees for camping at the Big Springs Campground. The CCCB declined the offer at this time.

Mark Nelson has purchased the crop ground around Kleve fen and has requested permission for deer bow hunting in the 10 acres of timber associated with the fen owned by the CCCB. The board agreed to use the same policy as Motor Mill and Buck Creek. Engelhardt and Nelson have also discussed changing the access easement to the fen to a more direct route; more discussion will follow.

The Corridor received \$99,000.00 for a grant coordinator for three years and the Fayette County Foundation for the Future contributed \$10,000.00 for the phase 1 trail from Clermont to Elgin. The Water Trails project is putting together sign orders, text and photos for trail map and working through logistic details.

The white house at Motor Mill damaged in the 2008 flood is awaiting demolition. It was estimated by the FEMA representative that the value of the house was between \$50,000 and \$55,000. It is possible that the reimbursement for the house can be used for the replacement of the south span of the bridge at Motor Mill. The FEMA funds for the Osborne Campground can be used for an Alternate Project. We still have to decide what that project will be.

V.J. Engineering has offered to contribute to the design of the bridge replacement. Another party has offered to design a dike that would go between the Turkey River and the Inn and Stable.

The USDA and IDALS will begin their EAB surveys soon. They will survey 10 eastern Iowa counties adjacent to the Mississippi, setting 1,894 total traps, plus 400 trap trees which will bark peel in December.

We received a \$1,000 grant for the millstone floor at Motor Mill from Alpine Communications and \$1,000 from the CCFF. We did not get the grant from Alliant Energy for \$2,500 to pay for the Interpretive Grant.

Staff has started to pull together an inventory of equipment and other such items, in conjunction with a larger inventory being conducted county wide.

The Osborne Pond will be stocked this week with 1,200 blue gills. The bass will go in sometime in June.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$ 9,246.94
	Conservation Reserve:	\$ 4,988.56
	Total:	\$14,235.50

MAY

Gary Siegwarth of Big Springs Fish Hatchery has asked the CCCB to reconsider its decision of last month, to not be involved with collecting fees at the Big Springs Campground. The board authorized the collection of fees at Big Springs campground.

At the request of the Board, the staff reviewed the budget for FY11 to determine if there were sufficient funds to provide raises without changing the total amount of the budget. The Secondary Roads and Sheriff's Deputies have a 0% salary increase for FY 11. After discussion, it was decided to not pursue changing the budget to increase salaries, but to try to find appropriate ways to ensure salary increases in future budgets.

The board voted to continue the contract with Fayette County Conservation to purchase a joint ad of Conservation attractions that runs on MediaCom cable TV.

The board authorized the purchase of snowshoes for this winter as requested by Brian Gibbs. He has spoken with teachers who have expressed interest in using snowshoes for their programs.

We had our annual Welcome Center Inspection during the month of April. At the end of the year our contract is up and will be looking for renewing the contract.

Staff had their annual hearing test on Monday April 19.

Naturalists have wrapped up their Classroom programs and are now working with field trips at Osborne. They have been presenting the JNP at the schools

Brian Gibbs is finishing up the Turkey River Water Trail kiosk signs and has been working on Bald Eagle nest Monitoring survey and Frog and Toad Survey for IDNR.

The first mow of all the parks was the last week in April. Tables and trash cans are going out as time permits. The food plot at Osborne has been prepped. We have had to replace the hydrant at Bloody Run.

Staff burned the savanna at Motor Mill and the two goat prairies at Bloody Run. Talked with Dave Kester about garlic mustard control and is very interested in combining efforts.

Rangers have their rifles and will qualify on May 10th. They have also been working the parks and with other agencies on a variety of cases.

The 4-H Shooting sports have started again. This is once a month on Sunday afternoons.

Anderson will be sponsoring a Visitor Protection Workshop through CCPOA at Osborne on May 20th. The class is open to County Conservation Board permanent or seasonal employees who may find themselves involved in situations where training in park visitor management and an introduction to park rules enforcement would be beneficial.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$27,093.75
	Conservation Reserve:	\$ 6,205.12
	Total:	\$33,298.87

JUNE

The regular meeting of the Clayton County Conservation Board was held in Guttenberg. Guests at the meeting were Guttenberg City Manager Barry Dykhuizen and Lucas and Grant Langhus. The board, staff, and guests enjoyed a tour of Lock and Dam 10 given by lockmaster Marv Althoff.

The board, staff, and Dykhuizen drove to see the conservation easement sites the city is required to protect as mitigation for environmental damage from the city's marina project. The city will be responsible for maintaining the sites. The county will hold the perpetual easements that assure their continued protection. The board approved the easement agreement.

We have now adjusted the FEMA Alternate Project for the Osborne Campground. After several attempts to use the funds to purchase seeding equipment, we have to use the funds to purchase a new mower for FY 2011. Engelhardt has been working with FEMA on the residential house at Motor.

On May 19, the water system at Motor Mill was started. Progress was slowed due to family medical problems with the contractor. Grau Logs and Lumber secured the two walnut trees. They were saw log quality only. The water system was not finished by Memorial Day weekend.

Mulford was able to pick up the coyote and raccoon from Minnesota on May 18.

Fire rings donated by the VFW of Marquette have been placed at Bloody Run Park. Parks had a very busy Memorial Day weekend. Bloody Run was full, Motor Mill was full and Joy Springs had several units. Osborne Park had a lot of visitors through the park all weekend as well.

Archery shoot is Saturday and Sunday June 5 and 6. Hunter Education Course is June 21, 23, 25 and Saturday June 26. The annual fishing clinic will be held at Backbone Lake on Saturday June 5.

A volunteer day will be held at Motor Mill on Saturday June 12th to pull garlic mustard from 9 until noon.

Clayton County Conservation will be a co-sponsor for several youth fishing excursions on the Mississippi River organized by Robert Vavra and the Maiden Voyage of Harpers Ferry. We would supply at least one staff and fishing poles.

We have removed two ash trees in the pioneer village and then planted one memorial tree there and a second memorial tree has been planted by the deer pen. Maintenance staff is in full swing with chores, garbage collection and mowing.

Abbey, Brian and Cynthia helped with Riverfest. There were nearly 400 kids per day for two days.

The Civil War event at Motor Mill was well attended on Saturday with about 150 people.

Snowshoes, laptop and camera have been purchased.

Work crew worked at the Kleve Fen on weed control.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$37,296.78
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JULY

FEMA requires and will pay for a Phase I Archeological Review of the area surrounding the white house at Motor Mill prior to removal. Three firms acceptable to FEMA were contacted for estimates for Requests for Proposals. None of the three firms has responded. Engelhardt will contact FEMA about the situation.

Engelhardt was authorized to apply for a REAP grant to construct two cabins on the Osborne cabin site. The total grant application will be \$358,374.

Oakland and Irene Becker, with help from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, chose to transfer their Millville property to the Clayton County Conservation Board upon their deaths. They have a life estate on the property. Mr. Becker is; Lisa Bittner Kies, Irene Becker's niece, contacted Tim Engelhardt about the possible purchase of 6 acres of the Becker property next to her property when the CCCB acquires the property. She also said that Irene would like to speed up the process and transfer the property before she passes away and asked Engelhardt if he would pursue this possibility. Engelhardt has talked with Darrell Mills of INHF; they would agree to an early transfer of property; the Beckers' attorney said an early transfer was possible. The agreement with the INHF and the Beckers states that the land would be used for public recreation and education when acquired by the CCCB. Sale of any portion of the property is not an option with this agreement. Engelhardt should inform Lisa Kies that it is not possible to sell any portion of the property, even after the property is transferred to CCCB. It was noted that Mrs. Becker has not requested an early transfer of the property.

Engelhardt reviewed the proposed and present trails on a NE Iowa Regional Transportation map. The board toured the proposed route of the Turkey River Trail. The Supervisors, private landowners, the County Engineer, and representatives of the Turkey River Corridor will need to reach a consensus about the route.

The Conservation Easements have been corrected and signed with the City of Guttenberg.

The staff had our all day safety training day on Friday June 11. Day included first aid and CPR, chainsaw safety and pruning, Gator safety, and general safety attitude.

The Osborne Pond was stocked with bass and catfish on June 15th.

Hunter Ed was held the week of June 21-26.

We have made good progress in controlling garlic mustard at Motor Mill and Bloody Run. Fire on the timber is needed to help with the control.

Anderson's crew has been working on trimming and pruning in all of the parks along with weekly checks of Pony Hollow Trail. They replaced two and installed two new fire rings at Bloody Run.

The old campground and buffalo pen prairie planting has been mowed; we would like to mow the area again late in the fall and then conduct a fall burn on the site to help stimulate the growth. The 6th Grade JNP has been completed. 7th Grade JNP is this week and next week.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$12,541.95
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AUGUST

The tour of Kleve Fen was delayed until September due to the heat, the many mosquitoes at present, and the absence of a board member.

John Eno of California owns 190 acres of land in Wagner Township, and has been working with INHF for several years with the goal of preserving Eagle Prairie Farm, in the Eno family since 1854. INHF is not interested in the 10 acre area which contains the farm buildings and John Eno has contacted CCCB about the possibility of donating the 10-acre building site as a possible historical site. He would maintain a life estate on the 10 acres as he returns to Iowa during the summer. Eno believes the house was built in 1854 and the barn in 1858. There are other outbuildings. Most are in poor condition, but Eno expressed interest in repairing the house and barn if the CCCB is interested in receiving the property. He may also consider an endowment to help maintain the property. He shared the history of the farm with Engelhardt, who encouraged him to record this history. The INHF would receive 135 acres of tillable land and 35 acres of wetland which Engelhardt believes is a fen. This area is of special interest to the CCCB for potential educational activities. It would be accessible from the site containing the farm buildings. The Evaluation Criteria in the Five-Year-Plan was reviewed and the site meets a number of the criteria: it has unique attributes, will be adjacent to the INHF area, has historical significance, has potential for selected activities not now provided by the CCCB, and would provide a site in an area of the county where there are few CCCB parks. Concerns expressed are related to maintenance, lack of funding and development of specific uses. Tim Engelhardt will meet with John Eno and Sheri Grauer of INHF on August 12 to continue the discussion.

The heavy rains from July 21-24 caused rivers and streams in the county to rise. Joy Springs Park had the most damage and flooding. Estimated costs turned into FEMA. The damage included the loss of three picnic tables, road rock from access roads and parking lots, and mulch around trees; the flooding blew out an area that had been rip-rapped in 1994. The board accepted a job estimate submitted by Larry Meyer of Strawberry Point to repair the flood damage at Joy Springs, a portion of which would be reimbursed by FEMA. There was also flood damage to the central pier at Motor Mill. A block of rock was washed out on the upstream side of the pier. This is causing the stones above the missing block to sag. FEMA officials were notified and have recorded this damage. Repairs will be incorporated into the larger bridge project already approved. The Volga River flooded Osborne Park in the area of the old buffalo pen and campsite. Flood water was half-way up the shelter in the old campground. The native grasses and seeding planted after previous floods held the soil in place, but weed seed has likely been washed in and will need to be dealt with.

The board approved a bid sheet for 3,000 gallons of LP fuel. These bids are due on Monday, September 13, 2010. Bid sheets will be sent to seven companies in the area.

Tim Engelhardt shared a number of issues that have recently developed. These include the resignation of a seasonal employee whose duties would have continued into the fall, leaving staff with extra maintenance duties; maintenance issues with the Visitors Center building including siding, telephone problems, air conditioning, and pressure tank problems; use of the campgrounds for residential purposes, and the difficulties completing the well at Motor Mill due to the wet weather which limits access.

There are concerns about the Big Springs Campground agreement as far as what the collected camping funds will be used for. Engelhardt will meet with Siegwarth to discuss.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$12,839.01
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SEPTEMBER

The board accepted the LP bid of Innovative Energy for \$1.360/gal.

John Eno would like to meet the Clayton County Conservation Board and give them a tour of his property on September 28 or 29. It was decided that Engelhardt would talk with him about the time that would work best for him, and then contact the Board members. Eno has 60 acres that he may be willing to use to set up a trust fund for maintenance of the farm site. The farm land near the farm buildings will go to the INHF.

Upon arrival at the Fen Engelhardt gave a tour of the 28 acre ancient site, rich in plant and other species unique to the fen. Invasive plant species are difficult to control, partly due to the limited accessibility.

The flood of 2008 left silt in the basement of Motor Mill. The FEMA project submitted to repair this damage was to remove a portion of this silt, to reset a couple of stones on the wall, and to tuck point a portion of the wall. FEMA approved about one-third of the proposal because the building sits in the flood plain and is eligible for flood insurance. If the CCCB accepts the lesser amount, they will be required to have flood insurance coverage on this repair site for at least 20 years. Engelhardt will talk with Gifford Insurance, the company that handles Clayton County insurance, about flood insurance costs and coverage for the project.

At the IAN meeting August 12-13, the naturalists helped net 60 plus bats and 14 Massasaugua rattlesnakes for study, tagging and release.

Public programs for August included Savanna tour, canoe float on the Turkey, Stargazing, O.W.L.S. and a Stream Stomp. Additional outreach programs included Mississippi River Adventure Day USFW, Camp Silos canoe float, and Guttenberg Care Center.

Gibbs has been working with the Clayton Ridge Middle School on an Outdoor Classroom design behind the school in Garnavillo. He is also taking photos for the CCCB website which we are updating and revising.

We are still working through our water sampling and testing issues. We have made several changes to the system to get good tests. If this does not work, we may be looking at having to put in a chlorination system.

Engelhardt was in DM on Thursday September 9th for the REAP Grant for the Cabin Project; which we did receive. We scored well, and if REAP had been fully funded we would have been funded.

We will begin to look into the purchase/replacement of a new mower. This equipment purchase will be partially funded through a FEMA Project, with the money that was to be used for the Osborne road.

There are now three fun runs scheduled to be held on Pony Hollow trail. September 19 is an evening run, Oct 9 is at 9:00 am and a tentative run is scheduled for November 6.

UMGC is donating water throw lines to each law enforcement agency in Clayton County. Our department has requested two, one for the patrol truck and one to stay with the canoes.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$12,718.99
	Conservation Reserve:	\$71.74
	Total:	\$12,790.73

SEPTEMBER – SPECIAL MEETING

The Clayton County Conservation Board met at the farm of John Eno, 16775 Dove Avenue, Luana, Iowa on September 29, 2010.

John Eno prepared packets of information about the Eno farm. The packet included oral history as well as plats, historical records, photos and drawings of the farm buildings and site. He gave a history of the farm, which was established in 1854 and has been in the Eno family for 156 years. Eno then led a tour of the eight acre farm building site which included the northwest section of grass and trees, followed by a tour of several buildings. The house was viewed from the outside. Eno noted the south end of the house was added to accommodate the hired men who worked on the farm. The south end of the basement was toured. There is a full basement under the house. The stable, also known as the horse barn, and the dairy barn have many of the original hand hewn beams. The dairy barn is sided with wooden shingles and once housed 80 milk cows. A portion of this barn has been removed. Other buildings on the site include a machine shed, hog barn, corn crib and garage. Eno and the CCCB drove to the site of an eagle nest on the farm. The nest remains, and Eno reports eagles fledged young there this year. Eno expressed his wish that the CCCB “retain forever” the farm site if he transfers the property to them. The Board understands his wish that the property would not be sold and has no intention of doing so. It was noted that Conservation Boards are mandated by Iowa law, but finances to support CCCB property are beyond control of the Board. The historic buildings at the farm site will require significant sums of money to develop. Eno stated he would have a life estate on the property, and has arrangements with his cousin for about 60 acres John Eno owns on the east side of the road, which may also be considered for transfer to the CCCB. If transferred, he suggests the 60 acres be used as rental property to provide income for the farm building site. Eno has a verbal agreement with the INHF to transfer 110 acres of the farm to their care and plans to put a conservation easement on the property. He has two expectations if the property is transferred to the CCCB: (1) the house and stable, also called the horse barn, be retained and (2) the property be called “Eagle Prairie Reserve” and be dedicated to the memory of his parents, James and Florence Eno. The CCCB needs to develop a long range plan for the property; this will be on next month’s agenda. The Board thanked John Eno for his time, tour and consideration to maintain this portion of Clayton County ecology and history. He offered to provide tours of the house later today if board members wished.

The board approved RC&D’s writing of the Statewide Enhancement Grant at a cost of \$750 due at the time of submission. If awarded, the RC&D will receive a total of 1% of the award. If \$500,000 is awarded, then RC&D will receive an additional \$4250.00. The board approved the maintenance of the Motor Mill Bridge and Motor Mill Trail for a minimum of 20 years if paid for and matched by the Statewide Enhancement Grant. The grant is for the construction of Motor Mill Trail which will connect the Pony Hollow Trail at Grape Road, follow the river through 5 private landowners’ properties for 4.1 miles and cross the river on the Motor Mill Bridge. Total cost of the project is approximately \$1,120,000. The Motor Mill Bridge FEMA Project will count as a match of approximately \$432,427; our cash match will be around \$175,000. The board approved the submission of the Statewide Enhancement Grant for approximately \$1,120,000 for the Motor Mill Trail.

OCTOBER

The meeting was closed at 6:13 PM pursuant to Chapter 21.5, Subsection J of the Iowa Code.
The closed session ended at 6:38 PM.

The CCCB began discussion of a management plan for the Eno property. Engelhardt will use the suggestions of the board to begin formulation of a management plan to share with John Eno.

Flood insurance will be obtained on the Mill and the contents. This will be included in the overall policy the county carries on its property.

Engelhardt was authorized to start talking with land owners about the Motor Mill trail to discuss easement options. If easements are approved then fundraising can begin.

FEMA paper work for the Motor Mill Bridge has come through and is approved. Our first step is to send out an RFP for engineering. The design for the bridge from the engineering company must meet FEMA approval before progressing. The FEMA grant and the Statewide Enhancement Grant must mesh; we are waiting on information from the DOT regarding this before beginning the bridge project.

Tim Engelhardt has been approached by Susi Nehls and Roy Blair, currently living in Monticello, WI, but with property in Clayton County. They became aware of the CCC staff and programs, were impressed by the educational activities and programs presented and would like the Osborne Center named in their will to support the those efforts. They are meeting with representatives of the CCFF to develop a bucket where the interest is available for the education programs. They also discussed donating a cabin they are completing on land they own near Grape Road. Nehls' father worked with Aldo Leopold; she has letters and other memorabilia of Aldo Leopold and her father to donate to the Osborne Center.

Ward and Jacky Budwig have land for sale near the Becker property at Millville. They would be willing to work with a conservation organization if the CCCB is willing to purchase the property. The property doesn't meet most of the property acquisition criteria of the CCCB, so buying property was not approved.

The work on the Motor Mill water system is complete. We are now working through the water permit process and will shutting the well back down for the winter in the next week or two.

Engelhardt and Anderson attended the annual CCPOA workshop/training in Des Moines October 4-6. Anderson has been elected as Vice-President of the organization.

The CCCB provided tables for a Forestry Field Day at the Tom and Agnes Kenny Farm.

Frenchtown has been closed due to flooding conditions on the Mississippi River.

The Osborne Off-Road Fun Run/Walk had 63 participants. The funds this year are earmarked for the education programs at Osborne.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$8,119.30
	Conservation Reserve:	\$166.14
	Total:	\$8285.44

NOVEMBER

Board members approved a tentative Management Plan for the Eno Property; it will now be shared with Eno.

The proposed budget for 2012 was reviewed. An increase of approximately \$32,239 in the overall General Basic budget for 2012 reflects increases in Administration and Operations for benefits only. Increases in the cost of services such as electricity, fuel, and other items will need to be addressed in the new budget.

The annual evaluation of the Executive Director will be done by Board Members.

The term of Joe Ihm expires on December 31, 2010. He was asked to accept another term as board member and has agreed to do so.

Brian Gibbs, Naturalist, was authorized to apply for a \$1,000.00 grant from Alpine Communications for the purchase of 20 pair of binoculars and 12 *North American Bird Guide* books which would be used in classrooms, on field trips and for public programs.

The DOT says that if we start the bridge now we will not be able to use that as match money for the trail to Motor Mill through the Statewide Enhancement grant. We have to start the bridge now and will deal with matching dollars when the time comes. However, if the bridge is being built, the match money maybe easier to raise.

The Archaeological Survey for the white house at Motor has to be started over. The RFP form was not current. A FEMA rep to come to the office to help write new RFP.

The County Safety Committee is in the process of updating the Safety Program Policies and developing a Purpose Statement and developing Objectives and Plans for the upcoming year.

Engelhardt has been spraying garlic mustard at Motor Mill Park and Bloody Run Park. In the past five years, great strides have been made toward control at Motor Mill. Bloody Run has also seen great improvement in just two years.

An Eagle Scout from the Elkader troop working on tree identification signs to be placed along Pony Hollow Trail.

Staff is still working through some water system issues at Osborne. A curb stop has been replaced on one of the lines. Some work had to be done on the pump as well.

Frenchtown Park has been opened back up due to flooding on the Mississippi River. Friedens Park has been closed for the winter season. Many of the out parks have been prepped for winter. The sledding hill has been mowed and prepped for winter activities.

Gibbs is on the planning committee for ICEC Winter Solstice. Naturalists will be attending the fall IAN.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$11,982.38
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DECEMBER

The Management Plan for the Eno property was reviewed and several suggestions made for inclusion. Tim Engelhardt will share the plan with John Eno and ask for his input.

Engelhardt presented a Time Line and Cost Estimates for the Motor Mill Great Places Projects to be completed in 2012. The Motor Mill Foundation is beginning to develop a fund raising campaign for those projects: the bridge, trail, building restoration and flood control. The total cost of the four projects is estimated at \$1,383,727 of which approximately \$1,046,342 is secured.

Members of the five county enhancement group will seek federal funding to assist in completing their five county trail plan.

The proposed budget for 2012 was briefly reviewed. The only changes at present reflect the projects at Motor Mill. No action was taken.

The Boards' evaluations of the Executive Director were given to Board Chair, Jim Langhus, who will compile the data and review the evaluations with Engelhardt. Board members are invited to the review. Written and personal staff evaluations are completed.

There was a brief discussion of the potential effect of the new gun permit law going into effect January 1, 2011. County Conservation Boards cannot legally bar weapons on the campgrounds or other public property.

The residential house at Motor Mill with regards to the archeological review is still at a stand still. FEMA is working with the U of I directly regarding few concerns they have with the contract.

Cross Country Ski trails were mowed and branches, but they have not yet been groomed.

Osborne water samples have come back good this time. The next tests will be run in January.

The USDA's annual inspection of the animal exhibit went well, as did the ICAP (liability) inspection.

The out parks have been prepped for winter, the majority of tables and trash cans brought back, trash picked up along edges and in the timber and along the streams. The animal exhibit, along with minor equipment and the buildings have all been prepped for winter around Osborne Park.

The Alpine Grant has been submitted for the binoculars; 8 pairs have been donated by Coast to Coast.

The naturalists attended the fall IAN Conference. They have been helping with the planning of the river clean up project through Project Aware. Gibbs has completed the prairie seeding project for the Clayton Ridge Outdoor Classroom.

Claims:	General Basic:	\$20,857.58
	Conservation Reserve:	\$607.30
	Total:	\$21,464.88